

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:HDCOLLUMS:CSR
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING
C:MNIMETZ
L/EUR:LDAMROSCHE

-----016197 091852Z /50

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, EAGR, ETRD, TU, US

SUBJECT: NIMETZ-ELEKDAG MEETING, AUGUST 8: CONTINENTAL
GRAIN CASE

REF: ANKARA 5447

1. DURING MEETING WITH TURKISH MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG AUGUST 8 (SEPTELS), DEPT COUNSELOR NIMETZ RAISED CONTINENTAL GRAIN DISPUTE. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS OF CASE, NIMETZ STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING PROBLEM IN EXPEDITIOUS AND BUSINESSLIKE FASHION. HE OBSERVED IT IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR GOT TO ALLOW TRADE DISPUTE WITH MAJOR AMERICAN FIRM TO DRAG ON UNRESOLVED, THEREBY CREATING UNFAVORABLE IMPRESSION WITHIN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY AT TIME WHEN TURKEY NEEDS INFUSION OF PRIVATE CAPITAL FROM ABROAD. CONTINENTAL AND ITS COUNSEL HAD BEEN PATIENT BUT THE APPARENT GLACIAL PACE OF CONSIDERATION IN ANKARA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COULD WELL PROMPT THE FIRM TO CALL PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE CASE.

2. ELEKDAG INDICATED GOT WAS WILLING TO RESOLVE PROBLEM. INDEED, HE HAD BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION THAT CASE WAS ON ROAD TO BEING SETTLED THREE/FOUR MONTHS AGO. APPARENTLY SOMETHING HAD GONE AWRY. HE SUGGESTED THAT MATTER BE RAISED

WITH MIN AGRIC YUCELER WHEN HE VISITS US LATER THIS MONTH.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOWUP WITH MFA AND MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

4. DEPT WILL ARRANGE FOLLOWUP WITH MIN AGRIC DURING WASHINGTON VISIT. WE WILL ALSO INFORM CONTINENTAL GRAIN COUNSEL SORENSON OF NIMETZ/ELEKDAG CONVERSATION AND FORTH-COMING VISIT OF MINISTER YUCELER AND WILL SUGGEST THAT HE MIGHT WISH TO TRY TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH MIN AGRIC. NEWSOM

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